



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District

during the year 1945.



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To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health V. D. BUCHANAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ed.

Sanitary Inspector S. HAIGH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1945)	8080
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1945	2171
Rateable Value	£39,675
Value of Penny Rate	£157

During the war years no radical change took place in the industry of the District. As formerly, brick making remains the principal industry, with the preparation of canned fruits and vegetables, and engineering as subsidiaries. In addition there are seasonal industries in the manufacture of sauces and of sugar from sugar beet.

All these industries are equipped with modern processes and all the firms take ample precaution for the welfare of their employees in the provision of rest rooms and canteens etc.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

Birth Rate per 1000 population	18.1
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STILL BIRTHS

Rate per 1000 total births	51.6
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DEATHS

Death rate per 1000 population	11.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	40.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	39.0
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	52.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population			Per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Fletton	18.1	0.9	11.5	40.8
England & Wales	16.1	0.46	11.4	46

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	51	42	93
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
9. Influenza	1	—	1
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Ac. polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	—	—	—
12. Ac. inf. enceph.	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph. (M) uterus (F)	—	1	1
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	2	—	2
15. Cancer of Breast	—	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	5	11
17. Diabetes	—	1	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	5	5	10
19. Heart disease	15	12	27
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	—	2	2
21. Bronchitis	1	1	2
22. Pneumonia	2	—	2
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	1	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	1	2
28. Nephritis	3	4	7
29. Puer. & post-abort. sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	1	—	1
32. Con: mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	2	1	3
33. Suicide	—	—	—
34. Road Traffic Acc.	1	1	2
35. Other violent causes	2	1	3
36. All other causes	5	3	8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities :—

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :—

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by Peterborough City Authority and London Brick Company.

(c) Nursing in the Home :—

Nursing in the district is carried on by the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Nursing Association under the supervision of the County Council. Two qualified nurses, both of whom are also certified midwives, are employed. They carry out the general nursing in the district, and attend the majority of maternity cases.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

Infant Welfare work in the district is carried out under the auspices of a voluntary body, the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Infant Welfare Association, at their clinic in London Road. The Infant Welfare Clinic has weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Hunts. County Council provide the following health services :—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 9-30—12.
Eyes	.....	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	.....	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	.....	High Street, Old Fletton.
Orthopaedic	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Monday 2-15 p.m. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	.....	Memorial Hospital every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	.....	28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Men—Tuesday and Friday 6—8 p.m. Women—Tuesday and Friday 3-30—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :—

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment of General Medical or Surgical Cases are available.

(3) Maternity Hospital :—

Provision is made for the reception of Maternity Cases into either, the Emergency Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park. or St. John's Hospital, Peterborough.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The routine visits of inspection in connection with this work have been carried out as in past years.

HOUSING ACT 1936.

During the year the Council have prepared a Scheme for the erection of 298 houses and this scheme has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Health.

The Council were allowed 100 houses for the first two post war years programme and they have obtained Sanction to the erection of 16 of these permanent houses.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

Complaints received	.....	Total No. of	.....	587
Premises, houses, etc.	.....	No. inspected	.....	587
		Nuisances abated	.....	400
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse		No. inspected	.....	1
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Animals improperly kept	.....	No. inspected	.....	Nil
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit	.....	No. inspected	.....	Nil
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc.	.....	No. inspected	.....	10
		Nuisances abated	.....	10
House, or part thereof, overcrowded		No. inspected	.....	Nil
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Smoke nuisances	.....	No. of observations	.....	Nil
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Offensive accumulations	.....	No. inspected	.....	Nil
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Other sanitary conditions	.....	No. inspected	.....	20
		Nuisances abated	.....	20
*Slaughter houses	.....	No. licensed or registered		4
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)		No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil
Housing Act, 1936	.....	No. houses condemned		Nil
		No. closed	.....	Nil
		No. cleaned and limewashed		Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome		No. of	.....	Nil

* Closed under the Food Acts (Slaughtering carried out at controlled slaughterhouse, Peterborough.)

Infectious Disease	.....	.....	{	Houses affected with Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Erysipelas	.....	25
				Houses inspected	.....	25
				No. of inspections	.....	46
				Houses disinfected	.....	25
				Schools	„	1	
				Disinfectant used	Formalin		
				Lots of clothing disinfected		22	
				„	„	destroyed	Nil
Water closets	.....	.....	.....	New provided	.....	Nil
				No. supplied with water		Nil	
Ashbins	.....	.....	.....	New provided	.....	100
Water supply	.....	.....	{	Samples taken for analysis		12
				„	condemned		Nil
				Wells closed	.....	Nil
				Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.		Nil	
				Public supply substituted for well or pond	.....	Nil
				Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	.....	Nil
				Waste pipes disconnected from drain	.....	Nil
Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.				.....	.....	Nil
Convictions				.....	.....	Nil

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1937.

Factories	.....	.....	.....	Total number on Register (including bakehouses)	28
				No. in which nuisances abated	..... Nil
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	No. on register	..... 3
				No. in which nuisances abated	..... Nil
Homework	.....	.....	.....	No. of outworkers	..... Nil
				No. of Houses	..... Nil
Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.				.....	..... Nil
Convictions				.....	..... Nil

S. HAIGH,
Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1945.

[illegible]

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the second half of the year cases of Diphtheria occurred chiefly in the Fletton and Woodston districts. The majority of cases occurred during September and October, in all 20 cases were notified and removed to hospital. There was one death in the case of an unimmunised child.

In order to try and trace the source of infection, nasal and throat swabs were taken from every child in Old Fletton Council and Woodston Junior Schools. 3 carriers were found and removed to hospital.

Of the 20 cases removed to hospital 11 had been immunised, but except in the case of one child immunised in 1944, the rest had intervals of 3, 4 and 5 years since they had been immunised.

As immunisation wanes with the years, a Schick test was carried out on 174 school children who had been immunised in the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 in order to find out their state of immunity. 28 children were found to be Schick positive, that is, their immunity to Diphtheria had deteriorated. These 28 children received a boosting dose in order to re-establish their immunity.

A sharp outbreak of Measles occurred in the first Quarter of the year with some residual cases in the beginning of the second quarter.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population:—

UNDER 5 YEARS		BETWEEN 5—15 YEARS.	
Number immunised	Estimated Population	Number immunised	Estimated Population
309	595	1055	1170

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	2	4	—	—	2	1	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

V. D. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

